

Appl. No. 09/560,819
Art Unit 2879
March 5, 2004
Preliminary Reply After RCE

REMARKS

Claims 2, 9, 11 and 13 are canceled. Claim 15 has been added. Thus, claims 1, 3-8, 10, 12, 14 and 15 are pending in the present application.

No new matter has been added by way of this new claim. This is because new claim 15 is supported by the specification at page 7, lines 19 to page 8, line 4, and by Table 1.

The Advisory Action of February 25, 2004 indicates that Applicant's previous reply dated January 21, 2004 has overcome all rejections with respect to claims 1, 3-8, 10 and 12. Further, claim 14 has raised new issues requiring further consideration and/or search (see box 2(a) of the Advisory Action). Thus, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 1, 3-8, 10 and 12. Also, Applicant respectfully requests consideration and allowance of claims 14-15.

Application Data Sheet

An Application Data Sheet is provided herewith in order to correct the spelling of the inventor's last name. Specifically, the inventor's last name is Ogawa, not Oagawa.

Conclusion

Applicants have taken substantial steps to advance prosecution of the present application. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance issue for the present case.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Eugene T. Perez (Reg. No. 48,501) at the telephone number of the

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undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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